

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

VOLUNTARY STATEMENT

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EVENT #: LLV171002001906

STATEMENT OF: CHRISTOPHER SULLIVAN

SPECIFIC CRIME:

DATE OCCURRED:

TIME OCCURRED:

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE:

CITY OF LAS VEGAS

CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: Sullivan, Christopher

DOB: PII 1974

SOCIAL SECURITY #:

RACE:

SEX:

HEIGHT:

WEIGHT:

HAIR:

EYES:

WORK SCHEDULE:

DAYS OFF:

HOME ADDRESS:

PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS:

PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE N. Larios, P# 7166, LVMPD MAJOR VIOLATORS/NARCOTICS CRIMES BUREAU on October 2, 2017 at 1635 hours. Also present is DETECTIVE C. Gowens, P# 14883.

NL: Operator, this is Detective N. Larios, P Number 7166, along with Detective C. Gowens, P Number 14883, conducting a recorded interview with a Christopher Sullivan. Today's date is October 2nd, 2017, approximate time is 1635 hours. I will be conducting the interview under Event Number 171002-1906 and we are going to be at the Guns and Guitars, uh, Federal Firearms licensee located at 1085 West Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 170, in Mesquite, Nevada 89027. Christopher, if you can, can you uh, completely spell your name and uh, provide your date of birth please?

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CS: Uh. My name is Christopher Miles Sullivan. C-H-R-I-S-T-O-P-H-E-R M-I-L-E-S S-U-L-L-I-V-A-N.

NL: And your date of birth?

CS: Uh, date of birth is PII 1974.

NL: Christopher, can you tell me your position at the Guns and Guitars uh, gun store?

CS: Uh. My position is General Manager.

NL: Okay and uh, you're the responsible person for the, for the license, licensee?

CS: I am a responsible person for the license. Yes.

NL: Okay. Uh, the reason we are here conducting an interview with you is regarding a person that we're investigating, a Stephen Paddock. Uh, Stephen Paddock is spelled S-T-E-P-H-E-N and then Paddock uh, Paul-Adam-David-David-Ocean-Charlie-King. Um, Chris, you provided several 4473 forms uh, regarding transactions that he conducted at your gun store. Um, can you kinda tell me a little bit about your interaction with Steve? Um, beginning with how long you have known him and just uh, some background about whatever you might, you might be aware of him.

CS: Um, Stephen, I probably just met over a year ago. Uh, he came in and purchased a handgun from us, a 9-millimeter, Smith & Wesson. Um, as far as interaction with him, pretty normal customer.

NL: Okay.

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CS: Um, nothing out of the ordinary that we noticed with his behavior or physical demeanor or condition of sound, you know, soundness of mind or anything. Seemed like a pretty normal guy for the most part.

NL: Okay. Now um. (Ringing) What—what do you about him orig—like where he might be from or how often he comes, does he actu—he's a resident of Mesquite, if I'm correct?

CS: Uh, he's a part time resident of Mesquite. Spends half his time here and half his time in Reno, Nevada that we know of. Um, his first purchase he had a temporary paper copy of his driver's license for Nevada with his Mesquite address on it, but he had his backup state-issued photo from Nevada which had his Reno address on it so we used that as the photo backup.

NL: Okay.

CS: Um, so the best that we know is that he spends half his time up there and half of his time here. Um, I knew he was a regular casino goer 'cause he talked about the casino quite a bit and he seemed to spend his time in both spots where there were casinos.

NL: Okay.

CS: So, that led us to believe that he was a—was a gambler.

NL: Alright. What uh—besides that, the Smith and Wesson, that 9-millimeter that he originally purchased from you, what else—what other kind of weapons has he purchased from you?

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CS: Um,. the—he purchased 3 different AR-15 platforms from us.

NL: Okay.

CS: Um, an FNH, a Sig Sauer, and an ArmaLite.

NL: Alright.

CS: Um, then—

NL: We can go back and, uh, we'll let you look at some of the records that you provided us.

CS: Mm-hmm.

NL: Just so that way it'll refresh your memory. I don't mean to have you, uh, recall all that from your, uh, recollection, so—

CS: I looked at it enough today where I remember.

NL: Okay.

CS: (laughs) yeah.

NL: uUm, so you said, you mentioned that he had—the very first purchase was, like, a Smith and Wesson?

CS: It was a 9-millimeter handgun.

NL: 9-millimeter, okay. Go into that.

CS: It's probably that one right there.

NL: Oh the first one?

CS: Yeah.

NL: Six, seven (mumbling).

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CS: It'll be the one that's got the, the photocopy—there you go, that one.

NL: This one? Okay.

CS: Yeah, that one'll have his(unintelligible) backup (unintelligible).

NL: Okay, here we go. So he purchased that in November 17, 2016? Does that sound about right?

CS: Correct.

NL: Okay. And uh, February 2nd, 2017, he purchased two rifles? FNH, FN15 and then an ArmaLite?

CS: Correct.

NL: Okay. Now those, uh, those weapons, did they any unique modifications to it or as far as any—

CS: None, not—

NL: —different type of buttstocks.

CS: Nope. They were, uh, straight from the factory and stock, um, just with the standard six-position collapsible stock on 'em.

NL: Okay.

CS: Nothing fancy about 'em, really, except for they cost more than the average one does, you know?

NL: Yeah, how much? Going to the cost—how much do those cost?

CS: Those were about two thousand dollars apiece.

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NL: Okay. Now did he ever mention to you where he, uh, his income or his employment, anything like that?

CS: None, no. I found out more about him on the news today than I ever knew.

NL: Okay.

CS: Just by talking to him as a customer. Never mentioned what he ever did for a living. Never mentioned, uh, if he was currently working.

NL: Alright. So, uh, Chris, I'm gonna show you a picture from his driver's license, stuff that he's provided to you here in the past. His date of birth is uh, 04/09 of 1953—is that the person you've seen, you know, depicted in the media and the news?

CS: Yes, that is Stephen Paddock.

NL: Okay, alright. Now have you ever seen Stephen with any other people here at the Gun?

CS: I, I have not. Uh, just briefly the female in question had stuck her head in the door one day. Uh, he kind of waved her out the door and that was the last we saw of her. Other than that, he would come in alone.

NL: Okay, do you remember approximately when that was?

CS: I want to say, that was probably in the spring or actually maybe like right, yeah, right in the spring, somewhere in April.

NL: Okay. April of uh, this year? 2017?

CS: This year, yeah, this year.

NL: Alright.

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CS: Yeah, that was right around the time, was right before he usually leaves town from what I gathered. As most of the snowbirds do as soon as May hits, they're heading somewhere that's going to be a little cooler.

NL: Alright. Um, I'd like to direct your attention to uh, if we could talk about the last purchase he conducted here.

CS: Yup.

NL: Can you, uh, briefly describe to me what he purchased? And uh—

CS: Uh, he came in the door on the 28th of September. Um, he pointed to a bolt action Ruger .308 that was on the wall.

NL: Okay.

CS: Uh, four-round capacity. At no scope or anything on it, was just a flat top with no sights.

NL: Okay.

CS: Um, questioned the length of the barrel to me, which I told him was, in fact, 18 inches, and he didn't believe it so I measured and showed it to him 'cause that's the minimum anyway so, -um, He said, "Okay, box it up." Um, he filled out the paperwork, gave me his credit card, and when across the street to Walmart, came back about 25 minutes later, and the background check was complete. Um, at that point, we let him go. He did inquire about whether or not there was a higher capacity magazine available for the gun, which I had looked up online and Ruger

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does not make a higher capacity rifle, uh, magazine rather. Um, it seemed odd to me because he doesn't seem like a bolt action kinda rifle guy.

NL: Okay.

CS: Being as many semiautos as he owned, but he was a decent customer and never had any issues with him so transaction went through as normal.

NL: Uh, has he ever purchased any ammunition from you?

CS: Not one bullet.

NL: No?

CS: Never purchased any ammo from us.

NL: Okay. Um, aside from the guns that you have sold him, which the majority of them were, uh, rifles.

CS: Mm-hmm.

NL: Uh, you mentioned he's had guns cleaned here?

CS: He would bring rifles in from time to time and have us clean 'em. Um, never cleaned a handgun for him though.

NL: Okay.

CS: Not once.

NL: Do you remember what types of—type of rifles that you cleaned for him?

CS: They were all AR-15 platforms, either chambered in .308 or .556.

NL: Okay. Do you recall the, the maker, manufacturer?

CS: Uh, I don't. No.

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NL: Okay.

CS: They're all—they were all high end stuff. You know what I mean? You know, nickel boron bolt carriers, the whole nine yards. I don't remember manufacturers specifically.

NL: Okay.

CS: But I remember nice guns, so.

NL: So they were pretty—so they appear to be expensive?

CS: They were upper end. Yup.

NL: Okay. Alright. Um, Detective Gowens?

CG: I know you, you talked a little bit, uh, about cleaning those guns, you said.

CS: Mm-hmm.

CG: How many rounds would you guess that he put through, just based on cleaning them?

CS: Based on, well, it all depends on the ammunition most of the time, but he had mentioned that he normally—(Ringing)—he mentioned that he normally doesn't have them cleaned until he puts about a thousand rounds through them and he said that, he specifically said at one point that he'll usually sit down and shoot a thousand rounds through one at a time. (Ringing) Which means that he's spending, you know, quite a bit of time of time on the range. I mean, it takes you a long time to shoot a thousand rounds, so that's the only thing that really stuck out in my mind about it. Um, never asked about buying accessories (Ringing) or ammunition or

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scopes or anything. You know, seemed like he had all that squared away in other places.

CG: Did he ever talk about distances or ranges?

CS: No. Never.

CG: Specific yardage, no?

CS: Nope.

CG: Did he ever, uh, talk about shoot—like have any buddies that he talked about shooting with or anything like that?

CS: No, not that he ever mentioned. We never, we never engaged in any real social conversation. You know, he wasn't—he would come in and drop something off or he would come in and say, "Hey, can you order me this?" And I'd look it up and call him up and say, "Sure we can get that coming for ya, just put the deposit down." And never mentioned anybody he hung around with, um, never mentioned a lady friend or a wife or—or anything, really. You know?

NL: So mostly just a business relationship—

CS: Yeah.

NL: —in that sense. I guess he would come in and discuss guns with you?

CS: Yup. And not, and even as small as a town as Mesquite is, I never saw him out anywhere.

CG: Okay.

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CS: We're not really casino people, Jenny and I, so we don't really gamble but I've never seen him in the grocery store, never seen him, you know, at Walmart or, or out at any other restaurants either so.

CG: Is there anybody you feel that would be important for us to speak to that might know about him?

CS: I don't think so. Really nobody knows—nobody, none of the other customers even knew who he was. You know, so.

CG: Did you uh—again, did he ever ask you about anyone that could do machine work or gunsmithing or anything like that?

CS: No. No. He—he had mentioned to me that he had used, um, that he used various guys in Las Vegas for gun cleaning and other things, but never who. You know, my assumption is that if he was having machine work done, it was probably either in Las Vegas or up in Reno. Um, because Vegas has a plethora of high-end machinists down there, that you know, that are doing gun building, so.

NL: Okay, so just—and I know we kinda went over this, but, uh, did you ever observe any of these rifles that had some, I guess, unusual modif—or maybe not unusual, is the not the right word—maybe just, uh, different type of buttstocks other than the collapsible buttstocks?

CS: None. Yeah, they were all—

NL: Nothing like that?

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CS: They were all standard. You know, some high end Magpul stuff, but that's all standard. You know, six position.

NL: Okay. Any scopes or anything like that? Bipods?

CS: Nothing. None—None of those rifles ever came in with an optic on them.

NL: Okay.

CS: Yeah, that, that's a good one. That's a good question, but I never remembered seeing a rifle come through the door that he had that had a optic on it.

NL: Okay.

CS: So I'm assuming he dismounted those, you know, before he brought 'em in but-

NL: Did he seem like he was very well-versed in using the firearms?

CS: Uh, he was very, very educated in, in guns and seemed like a very intelligent guy to me. I mean, obviously, after reading what he did for a living, it doesn't surprise me, but seemed like a pretty smart guy. You know?

NL: Okay. Did he ever express to you any, like, anti-government type of sentiment or anything like that?

CS: No. None, whatsoever.

NL: Okay.

CS: Nope. Never—never got that feel from him. You know, you can, you can kinda feel that on a person, usually.

NL: Mm-hmm.

CS: And I can anyway, but I never got that sense.

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NL: Okay.

CS: Yeah.

NL: Detective Gowens?

CG: So, so going back to the fact that he, uh, he brought his guns in several times to clean have you clean 'em, and he never really mentioned any, uh, anyone that he had specifically do machine work for him and he never really asked you for anyone, you know, locally to do machine work—do you think he's capable of doing any machine work himself?

CS: I think he was a smart enough guy to figure it out. You know? I mean I know guys that, that aren't that smart that can get on YouTube and probably find that information, you know, so it wouldn't surprise me if, if he did that himself, you know? I mean, I know personally, in that platform, it doesn't take whole lot. I've had brand new factory guns that have come that multiple fire that I've had to send back because you know, they're out of spec. So, it doesn't take much to do it. So it wouldn't surprise me at all if he had done it himself.

CG: But based on your observations when you've cleaned the guns, it didn't appear to you that they were—

CS: I didn't notice anything out of the ordinary. Like I said, I always inspect them pretty close to look for where or possible filing, and I didn't see anything there, so.

CG: Okay. And when was it approximately you did clean those other guns that he brought in?

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CS: Uh, it woulda been probably right in the beginning of August because I remember him, it seemed that he was kinda here late in the season.

CG: Okay.

CS: And we were about to head out for our wedding, so I remember it pretty distinctly—so—

CG: So around August of this year, 2017?

CS: Yeah, it was, 'cause we left about the first week of September to go get married and it was about a month before that, so.

CG: Okay.

CS: I remember actually asking him, how come he was still here, and he said, "Oh, I'm on my way out of town," so.

CG: Okay.

CS: Casino snowbirds are usually not here in August, so.

NL: He woulda been in Reno?

CS: Woulda been in Reno by then, yes.

NL: Okay.

CS: I mean, that I know of, 'cause he spent his summers up there, so.

NL: Did he ever tell you he lived anywhere else?

CS: Nope.

NL: Okay.

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CS: Nope. I did notice on the news he had a plane in Mesquite, Texas which kinda struck me odd. But other than that he specifically named Reno and that was it.

NL: Okay.

CS: I know he, I know—I know he was a gambler, so.

NL: He, he mentioned that?

CS: Uh, he had mentioned he spent time in the casino up there, so I don't think he gambled here in town much, 'cause I don't think there was high enough stakes for him. You know?

NL: Okay.

CS: But he never hesitated at the cost of anything, you know? When came in to buy a rifle, he knew what they cost and he didn't care. You know, he didn't. Most guys are going "Uh geez, can you do better on that?" But he—

NL: So he never really negotiated the prices with you?

CS: Nope. Never really negotiated the price. Nope.

NL: Okay.

CS: Didn't appear to affect him any, you know, I get sticker shocked, 'cause, you know, I'm a hardworking guy that doesn't make a lot of money, so it didn't appear that he was too, too blown away by the prices of things. You know?

NL: Okay. Alright, well, uh, Chris, I really appreciate your cooperation. Thank you very much.

CS: No problem. Anything we can do.

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NL: Okay. And, uh, we're gonna end the recording. Same people are present, same location. Uh, the time now is 1649 hours. End of recording.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT 1085 West Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 170, Mesquite, Nevada 89027 ON THE 2nd DAY OF October, 2017 at 1649 hours.

Transcribed by K16329V and J14991B October 4, 2017 1552 hours.

PII

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